

COMMENT FILED IN OPPOSITION TO RM-11306

The ARRL's proposal is somewhat similar to one that has already ruled on by the FCC on November 24, 2003.

By filing this petition it appears as the ARRL is out of touch with reality as the issue of bandwidth has already been addressed by the commission. Furthermore they appear even more out of touch with their own membership as a significant number appear to be unsupportive of the proposal.

In RM-10740 the FCC had already denied a request to restrict bandwidths within the amateur service. Some of the points made by the Commission in the rejection stated:

"We conclude that petitioner's request for an amendment of our rules is inconsistent with the Commission's objective of encouraging the experimental aspects of the Amateur Radio service."

"The petition also fails to demonstrate that a deviation from the Commission's long-standing practice of allowing operating flexibility within the Amateur Service community is either warranted or necessary."

"Further, we believe that our existing rules including the provisions that no amateur station transmission shall occupy more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice, and that emissions outside the necessary bandwidth must not cause interference to operations on adjacent frequencies are adequate to address any noncompliant practices by amateur operators."

Furthermore this proposal offers no specific bandwidth measurement method. If adopted the FCC could become swamped with a large number of unsubstantiated bandwidth complaints from operators claiming that a problems exists when the reality is that they are using unsophisticated or mal adjusted receive equipment.

Their proposal barely addresses the issue of overcrowded conditions in the phone sections of many bands. They are only trying to placate some by proposing a slight extension of phone into the CW portions, but in their reality they would prefer to stubbornly refuse to acknowledge that CW usage will diminish in the years to come. I believe amateur operators would be far better served if a plan somewhat similar to the IARU Region 2 HF Band plan was adopted. Such a plan would far better serve us well into the future and also align our usable bands with that of other nations.

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At a minimum the protected sub-bands need to be scaled back to more closely match levels of operating, and our Petition, RM-11305, proposes to allow these frequencies to be free for all to use within today's rules against interference.